Randolph Sheppard EC Meeting

October 4th, 2021

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Let's go ahead and get started. I normally have two screens I work with. Okay. So this will be the elected committee of blind vendors meeting for October 4th, 2021. On the agenda it's going to be a Zoom meeting because we're still under covid protocols. We did send out a public announcement, so this is a public meeting. Anyone that wants to come is welcome to it. The first item we have is a call to order. Frank, you want to do that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Let's call this meeting to order. Elected committee.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Candice Linville, New Orleans.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yeah. Let's do a roll call. Candice Linville, New Orleans.

PINKY HARRIS: Pinky Harris, New Orleans.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Shelly LeJeune, Baton Rouge.

DON ARABY: Don Arab. Alexandria and Lake Charles.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Frank Gaffney.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. Frank Gaffney.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So with Frank that gives us five. Four counting the chairman. So is that a quorum?

FRANK GAFFNEY: How many was it?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We have four managers.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I'm still playing with that iPad trying to make it work. I think we have to have four.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We have to have five people. We have four regional representatives and the chairman. So therefore we have a quorum, correct?

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes. Emma's not there. Herbert's not there.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Herbert was here earlier.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. He was. I don't know if he understood to come back or not.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. Well, we got five so let's go ahead and rock and roll. Next up on the agenda is welcoming comments by Mr. Frank Gaffney, chairman of the board.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I would like to welcome everyone to the committee meeting.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. Next item on the agenda is remarks by me, Steven DeBruhl, Randolph Sheppard program manager. I'd like to introduce our Randolph Sheppard staff. We have Erick Chupina calling from Kenner. Kevin Monk and Melissa Bayham, our fearless leaders from Baton Rouge. And Mica is on the phone with us as well. And Chantey Carter is here as well. Thank you all for showing up.

Like I was telling Melissa a second ago, Hurricane Ida damaged the West Bank building and Mica and I have been telecommuting the last couple weeks. We've been able to get to the office to look for some documents, but you can't stay more than an hour or two. They don't want you staying longer than that. The building should be open by the end of this week, Thursday or Friday. Looking forward to getting back over there.

Hurricane Ida did some damage down the bayou as you guys know. Chabert took a pretty big beating. The hospital evacuated people. They also evacuated the air conditioning units off a cement pad behind the snack bar. We've had them looked at. So it's going to be less than 3,000‑dollars to get everything fixed back up. Which looked a lot worse in the picture than it actually did. Sunny Crochet who is our manager down there, he also got hit pretty hard at his house. Mica can tell you we had another manager in New Orleans whose house is completely devastated. The hurricane's not over for a lot of people. Trying to get back to normal, but there's still a lot of damage out there. It's also affected our business and location. We still have offices that are closed in Houma and Terrebonne Parish. But pretty much all state offices are pretty much open at this point in time. It's better for me, I'll go over some opening locations a little bit later on. But we do have a lot of openings we need to address, and we'll do that. In the meantime, I'll pass it over to Kevin. Kevin, do you have anything you want to add.

KEVIN MONK: The main thing I wanted to say in regards to a lot our locations, I know we've had discussions about prospecting for new locations and the like. And to the large extent we're in kind of the same posture that we have been with those locations. Steve actually wrote a letter for federal locations basically requesting permission to conduct a site survey. I tweaked the letter a little bit and we have submitted it to the attorneys to look at and tweak. I was told last week they have it and are ready to go. I just need to get the letter from them with their edits, corrections and we should be ready to, hopefully, prospect for federal locations. You know, including possibly Fort Polk and Barksdale. And the other federal locations that are on that list. Then we're going to use that letter and kind of pattern it and design one that we know what legal would be looking for. We'll design it and do one for state locations requesting to visit them.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I see Herbert just popped up.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Kevin, what about the hospital in Lafayette? I thought that was top priority.

KEVIN MONK: I asked last week for an update on that, and I was told that they are working on it.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That's a lot of work. They've been working on it for a while.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I just don't understand it. How many years we got to go. We're not talking months, six months. We're talking years.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. Let me just say this, Herbert just joined us. Let me ask him to unmute.

HERBERT READO: I've been on here.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You haven't been on here. I just let you in 34 seconds ago to be exact. I got my eye on the prize. If it was Don, you'd get away with it.

DON ARABY: Thank you, Steve.

HERBERT READO: I was on. I was on when Don came in.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You missed the roll call. Lynsey, please add Herbert Reado to the roll call.

Next up on the agenda is introduction of guests. I don't think we have any guests other than no one outside the immediate family here that I can see. Nobody came for guests. And review of the agenda, Herbert and Frank and I did earlier. Now we got the approval of corrections of the June 11th, 2021, minutes of that meeting. Did y'all get a chance to review it? I know Frank usually does.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I've read them twice.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I read them also.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So you found Lynsey to be highly accurate. Maybe too much so taking down what I say.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Word for word.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yep. Exactly. Word for word. Yes. She does an excellent job.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: She does. So do you want to make a motion to accept those minutes.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. I'll go ahead and make a motion that we accept the minutes for the June meeting.

DON ARABY: I'll second it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor.

{collective aye}.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Opposed? Motion carried.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Thank you, Lynsey. Got to let her know who's speaking again. I know she's great. If we're not in the same room, just say your name so we're being accurately recorded here.

Moving onto new business then. The first item we have on here is stipend checks. And that's been kind of a saga. Seems like it is every year. The checks did go out. Direct deposit Thursday night for all those who had direct deposit set up properly in LaGov. The checks were mailed on Friday and Shelly told me he did receive his.in Baton Rouge on Saturday.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Right. That's correct.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Now we do have a list of 13 managers whose checks are still being processed and been approved all the way up to procurement. They'll probably going to go out next week. And that's because there was a conflict in their address between LaGov and what we have. Michelle worked hard with those folks to have all these people set up correctly. Some of these the address is correct. Some of the direct deposits will be checks. But if somebody didn't get a check, I don't really want to get into names at this point. You can have them reach out to me.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Did Michelle get those checks that were going to be hand delivered?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: No. They were out today. Michelle is at a doctor's appointment this afternoon. That's why she's not here. But there are three checks and Buck was one of them.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. Buck did get his. I talked to him.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: He got his FRP check?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I think so. Yeah. I think that's what he told me when I talked to him.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: But the proverbial check is in the mail. If it's not in the mail it will be in the mail very shortly.

So Frank, we have the next item on the agenda was legal services. If you want to talk about that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. Like I said, it's taking an awful long time to get an answer on anything. Every meeting I have to ask the same thing. I even asked a while back for a written response on it and I didn't get anything. Is there a way that y'all have these meetings I can listen in or something, see what's happening with our part of it?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Kevin, you want to take this.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. I seriously doubt that they would do that. I mean, perhaps we could ask if they could maybe attend this meeting. Or not this particular one, but a meeting of the EC or whatnot. But I seriously doubt they would consent to, you know, someone from outside listening in on a meeting. What do you think, Melissa, do you agree or disagree?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I agree with that. But we'll definitely talk to them about the concern.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. I would greatly approve of having a meeting with the lawyer, you know, so we can ask questions.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: What do you think about that, Kevin? Do you want to try to schedule a meeting.

KEVIN MONK: We can ask. We can see if they'll agree to it.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: This is Shelly. Kevin or Melissa, could it be possible that they could join our committee meeting?

KEVIN MONK: That's kind of what I had mentioned a few minutes ago. Maybe not this particular one.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Right.

KEVIN MONK: But certainly maybe invite them, at least if they couldn't attend the whole thing, just for a few minutes of maybe the next meeting.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: How about a separate meeting with the committee.

KEVIN MONK: Okay. We can throw that out as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's three months away before we have the next committee meeting.

KEVIN MONK: That's true. We can throw that out as well.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Well, Frank, why don't we do this. Why don't you make a formal request for response. Maybe we can vote on that and take that back to them. I don't want to put words in your mouth.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Shelly, go ahead and ask it.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: We want to make a formal request that we can get a special committee meeting with the attorneys, with Kevin, with Melissa and Steve within, I would say within the next month or so. At least the next month. Would that be possible?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That's your request?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So what's the next step, y'all vote on that, Frank?

FRANK GAFFNEY: A written request.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Response.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Is that something y'all vote on when you do that?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes. We normally vote on it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I'm asking cause I don't know the answer to the question.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't either, but we'll go ahead and do it.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Okay. Do I got a second on that?

HERBERT READO: I'll second it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. All in favor.

{collective aye}.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Opposed? So carried.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So just to be clear, your request is to have a special meeting with the attorney within the next 30 days, a special EC meeting via Zoom, correct?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes. Correct.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We can certainly present it to them and give you an answer.

The next item has to do with the legal world as well. Discuss the RSA technical guidance on third party vending. Not sure if all you guys were on the Blast meetings last week, but that was a topic we all discussed. It wasn't very favorable. The RSA, if you're unaware, they're saying any third party vending on federal party needs to be assigned to a manager. It can't go back into the trust fund. I don't think that means it couldn't be a third-party location with the money going directly to the manager. But, Kevin, if I'm wrong, it can't come to us. So what we need to do is try to assign, come up with policy and how we're going to move these off with the money going to the SLA, going to individual managers.

KEVIN MONK: If it does come to us, my understanding is, it has to be contracted out by GSA or whoever the governing body is. And then they give us a portion of it. So we wouldn't get the full benefit of the location. We only get the proportional benefit.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yeah. The GSA, forever and ever, if a location comes up with GSA, we would put it out to bid and find out who's paying the most for us, then assign it and then the GSA would just open the doors and give us electricity and the space. But they're saying now that we shouldn't have been doing that that way at all to begin with and it's up to the GSA to contact the third-party vendors and they select the third-party vendor. And then after they're expenses, I'm not sure exactly how much they can take. It's called reasonable costs. That money would go to a blind manager. So a lot of these locations we have on third party might be easy, not easy, but redirect the money going to the blind manager. Now we have to decide who gets what and why do they get that. There's a few larger locations that are federal. I have Erick on it. He can come let us know. But the biggest ones that are third party locations is the Corp of Engineers, Army Corp of Engineers. But we have the Coast Guard which is located behind Federal City. The F. Edward Hebert and the Hale Boggs building downtown and the Wisdom building. The three of those combined, those could probably make a pretty‑‑ Just say New Orleans, for example. There's Department of Agriculture. The last commission check we got for these locations. 145‑dollars from Coast Guard. 300 bucks from Corp of Engineers. 776 from F. Edward Hebert. 1,000‑dollars from Hale Boggs. 121‑dollars from Wisdom which is the building right next these three. Hale Boggs, F. Edward Hebert and Wisdom are right across the street from each other. And then NASA, you know, we're getting third party money from NASA well. And there Customs House in New Orleans which is not too far from Hale Boggs as well. If you put all these New Orleans GSA properties together you could probably come up with a good location. Corp of Engineers, Erick that seems like a low number. But it's also being hit by‑‑ a lot of people are working remotely too at these federal buildings. If you listened to Blast the lady from GSA was‑‑ what was her goal, like 15 percent of the people in the building.

ERICK CHUPINA: They're promoting more telecommuting from what I heard from the Blast.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: They're showing up like Anderson Lee at the (inaudible) management building in Jefferson Parish. Just spent about 35,000‑dollars, they did. Put a new stove in there, new vent, all kind of stuff. But their occupancy rate is in that 15 to 20 percent rate. He's open for breakfast, but never really selling anyone.

ERICK CHUPINA: He hasn't really reopened since Ida either. He said it's been empty.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. So that, GSA combined with the hurricane. These are big buildings that have nobody in them.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Steve, this is Frank.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yeah, Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: On NASA that will go to the current manager, won't it?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think it has to.

SPEAKER: Yes. Yes. It has to.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. I would think so.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He can work it himself or he can make a third party for the part that they're doing now.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: See that's also another thing we talked about. You know, it is in the tag manual. Understanding that we don't want managers putting machines on third party. You know, always been a philosophy, I thought, we want everybody to do their own machines. This is kind of a unique situation that was third party. But if these machines, if they're third-party machines, shouldn't he have the opportunity to take them over himself and get 100 percent. When you talk about a post office that pays 80 bucks a month, that's one thing. NASA, that's definitely a big number right there.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Steve, on NASA, is that restricted area where those machines are or not?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: The whole place is restricted to a certain extent. You have to get a badge. Erick, you want to fill him in.

ERICK CHUPINA: Yeah. I think Bobby has access to everything. I think the only one that has Refreshment Solutions is 320. But I think they might have one machine that's restricted behind something.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It would just be a matter of, you know, updating his pass.

ERICK CHUPINA: Yeah. A matter of updating his badge.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: He's in good standing out there and he's doing a good job out there.

ERICK CHUPINA: I think building 103, which is the assembly plant, is basically the only one that's kind of closed off.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. Well, we have some coke. Don, for example, over there in Lake Charles. You know, we have nobody else in Lake Charles. We have federal courthouse that has coke and drink. Would you be interested in taking over a location like that?

DON ARABY: Probably so, Steve. I mean we pass right through Lake Charles when we pass on the interstate.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I guess what we can do is look at geographically, get every physical location of every third party. We can maybe see what managers are in the area. But if you're going to do a third party, it doesn't really matter where the manager is. If you're getting a third party from Army Corp of Engineers, you could be in Monroe Louisiana and still do it. I think try to devise some type of policy on how we're going to spin this off. If people don't get‑‑ they don't get a machine, well, why did I get this machine. So when we start messing with people's dollars it starts to hauler. So what kind of ideas do you have as far as who gets what and how would you go about doing that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: This is Frank. We're still looking at some kind of a selection process for people of level one and lev twos to try to help their income.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Now the higher one, that would have to be different, I imagine. Or not. It all depends. I don't know yet.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Like I said, if you go by geography. That coast guard station is right behind Federal City.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That's the highest grossing manager we have. Just because he's the closest, should he get the location. And the rich getter richer.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I would put that with level one and level twos.

DON ARABY: I kind of agree with Frank. To help the lower people.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: This is Shelly. And possibly trying to keep it in the same area where the manager is. You know, not across the state or something like that.

DON ARABY: Right. I agree that.

KEVIN MONK: What about taking the locations that Steve mentioned earlier, the two or three that are in close proximity in New Orleans and making a location out of it, a new location.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. That sounds good to me.

DON ARABY: Yeah. I agree. I do.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You know, hale Boggs used to be a location. Put it out to bid and nobody bid on it. Cause there wasn't a whole lot going on. But the Customs House, again, which is also GSA, there's about five blocks on that street. They're pretty consistent over there. I think eight machines there. So maybe put together a vending route for say Hale Boggs and also a separate one for Corp of Engineers. Want to go back‑‑.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: ‑‑ and see what kind of numbers we got. They used to do pretty good. Making 25,000, I don't know if there's enough there to do that. But maybe we can add some other stuff.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. I'm thinking once we get that letter from the attorneys the Corp may be one of the first places we need to visit in order to look at that and see how many machines there are and ask them about the number of folks in the building and so on and so forth. Cause that number, I agree, does sound a bit low.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: The cafeteria, they put it out to bid. (Inaudible) called me and said no one wants to bid on it. That's because they have a lot of ancillary things. They want two cashiers. They want this. They want that. So we decided to pass on it. I guess everyone else did too. I don't even know if it's open at this point. There's no snack bar.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: If you could possibly get vending machines in there that possibly could be a standalone location by itself.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Herb and I were there five or six years ago. Remember that, Herb? They had a nice kitchen and everything else.

HERBERT READO: There's just too much requirements.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. I remember that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That contract is asking you to pay them.

SPEAKER: Yeah. They want steak and potatoes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I told them at that point we don't want the cafeteria. Thank you, but no thank you. But we want our vending machines. So we still have the vending machines. But there's no doubt if a manager was working it, I'm sure it could be a good location.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What do we have for machines over there?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Twenty. Erick, do you know exactly?

ERICK CHUPINA: No. I don't.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think there's like 18 machines. A couple Pepsi machines over there that they have. And then Coke has machines. A check from coke and check from Refreshment Solutions. But definitely has been down trending. I think there's enough there for one location, maybe added on so someone has a level one perhaps.

PINKY HARRIS: Steve, (inaudible) told me there were 25 machines in that building, Corp of Engineers.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That sounds about right.

PINKY HARRIS: I don't know if that's still true. But a few years ago, that's the number they quoted me.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Well, Corp of Engineers is a huge place. It's literally like a mile.

PINKY HARRIS: But I know the place has dwindled so I don't know if they put some machines out or.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. It runs parallel to the river. There's machines. There's a big, big building. Several smaller buildings that they have machines.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. I used to live like a block from there.

MICA SMITH: There's also the possibility for the airport a federal location.

KEVIN MONK: So you could probably get like the control tower at the airport. But the airport itself, like in New Orleans, I think, if I'm not mistaken, is owned by the city.

MICA SMITH: It is. But I was talking to, like right before we gave that letter to the attorney, we went to give that letter to the attorneys, Kevin, I was talking to Leslie from GSA, and she was saying that there's federal break rooms at the airport. Like three or four. So I was going to wait till that letter came out and then submit that to her, see if we could go take a tour. And, you know, they just built the new airport so I don't know, I really don't know what would be available over there and how much machines it would be. But it might be like an auxiliary to Corp of Engineers or something like that to make one location. A possibility.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That would be a future problem we have. The current problem we have is that we do have third party locations. So we need to figure out what we're going to do with those. So we're going to try to put together, maybe say there's enough between Hale Boggs and Customs House to have a full location. And then get the numbers on Corp of Engineers so it can be another location. Put that out to bid. We do have people in New Orleans. Seems like all the activity's always in Baton Rouge. We have Leon who graduated years ago and still hasn't had a location yet. Create some opportunity for a manager or two down here in New Orleans I think that would be good. And then a location like Don's in Lake Charles. The post office, something like that that's not close to anybody. It's not convenient for anyone to go out there and do the machines. So would it make sense for that person to get assigned that and they would receive the third-party check.

HERBERT READO: I think we have to do more studying on that. Steve, this is Herb. Is there any way possible we could get a list of all the third party locations?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yep. Kind of looking through it here.

HERBERT READO: And then we could get a subcommittee meeting and see where we can brainstorm with that.

SPEAKER: Right.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. We got a bunch of subcommittees already.

KEVIN MONK: A location merger, I think, subcommittee.

HERBERT READO: Yeah. But we never really got the third party. What's really on third party. Just the third-party vendors.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I'm saying as far as subcommittees. We have a subcommittee on location mergers run by Shelly. We have new facility development subcommittee for Herb. And there's a vending committee Candice runs. Do you want to assign it to one of these subcommittees here?

HERBERT READO: Yeah. You can put it on one of the committees. I think all the committee needs to see what is available, what's out on third party.

SPEAKER: Yes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: New facility is Herb. Herb, why don't I work with you and Shelly and Candice since y'all kind of run that same thing. Have a meeting and come back to the EC to make recommendations.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That's fine with me.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: What I got out of that Blast thing it doesn't have to happen right away, but they want to see that you're putting some type of effort in making these transitions.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They want to see that you got a plan.

HERBERT READO: Put a plan together, at least progress making. And I assume the first place is going to be Corp of Engineers, the first move we're going to have to make.

DON ARABY: Steve, this is Don. I'm going to have to sign out cause I've got a 3:15 doctor's appointment.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay, Don. Good luck to you.

DON ARABY: Thank you. Okay. I'll talk to Frank or Shelly and find out what the rest of it was.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: See you later, Don.

SPEAKER: No problem.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Steve, another thing we're going to have to look into is purchasing these new vending machines.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You're right. That's the thing, a lot of these third parties, they provide the machines. Sounds like a topic for the subcommittee. So who wants to be on it besides Herb? Candice, you want to do it as well and Shelly?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Yeah. That's fine. This is Candice. And speaking of the new vending machines, Frank, on that chairmen’s call remember they were talking about the money that was going to be available that you had to apply for.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. That's something they're working on through Congress to put money available for purchasing new vending machines because of this third party that they threw at us. I haven't heard a status on it yet.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: No. But they were working on it. Trying to get something in.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay.

KEVIN MONK: That's news to me. I hadn't heard that one, but that would probably be a good thing.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. It was on one of the committee chair meetings.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Let's go back to the subcommittee. We're going have a subcommittee with Herbert, Candice, Shelly, myself and Erick Chupina. And what we'll try to do, Erick and I will work on coming up with a list of all the locations and then I'll do another Zoom call, or whatever, and kind of hash it out together. And work on it and maybe make a presentation to committee at our next EC meeting.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes. That sounds good.

ERICK CHUPINA: Do you want like the number of machines at each location too?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yeah. We'll work on that.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Say geographically if we can spin some off and some managers can take over those machines. Probably won't have to buy new machines. We also have machines in the warehouse, try to use if we can. One thing we found out that Red Bull, the machines at I59 and the welcome center, that might be a good opportunity to add those to locations that we can. They provide the machines once you buy the Red Bull. Shawn is doing pretty good.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Steve, this is Frank. At the present time Mike's been trying to get one of those and he's buying 1,000‑dollars at a time. He can get the reach in ones, but they're saying they don't have drink machines.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Actually saw, I took down a person's phone number off of that slide show, so I'll give him a call.

ERICK CHUPINA: I gave that number to Mike too. The one for the southwest region or the south region.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. I would imagine Mike's location would be the best. Terry can substantiate a machine at I59. It can't be that much going on.

PINKY HARRIS: I'm getting a brand-new Big Shot machine, you guys. Just letting you know.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: How is that working?

PINKY HARRIS: We called them when Coke pissed us off and they offered me a machine that got damaged, like its location got damaged in Ida, down in Lafitte. But then they didn't like the condition of the machine, so they ordered me a brand new one. I don't have it yet. They're waiting on it to come in.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Big Shot has 7UP as well. Or is that like (inaudible)?

PINKY HARRIS: No. Yeah, it's just Big Shot. But they also have some juices. Yeah. It's National Beverage. So they've got like 12 flavors of Big Shot and a bunch of juice. Which doesn't get in the machines cause it's glass. But they don't distribute (inaudible). So yeah, just throwing that out there.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Big Shot, we'll be okay. Unless it's an exclusive Coke contract. You can't sell Big Shot in the Coke machines. A Big Shot machine, you can probably stick other stuff in there too.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. I'm just saying, they did offer me a machine and maintenance on it too. So might be another option for some people. We called them when Coke wouldn't deliver to me for like three weeks straight.

CANDICE LINVILLE: This is Candice. I have a contact at Big Shot if anybody needs.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. I do too now so.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. All right. Go back to our agenda. All right. So Erick and I are working on this. And Herb, I'll reach out to you next week and we'll set up a meeting.

HERBERT READO: Okay. That will work.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yep.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Frank, you've been talking about this for a while. Vacation pay. You want to talk about it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. I submitted a letter to Steve and Kevin and Melissa. 750‑dollars a year vacation pay and also included on it depending on availability. I'm waiting for an answer from the state. Or can I get it now?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: This isn't the state's answer. This is my observation. No, I'm just saying this is my personal opinion. That with this change of the third party, I don't know exactly, we might be looking at voting on set asides. Because most of these states that do have vacation pay do have set asides that come out of it. That vacation money would have to come straight out of the trust fund which is getting ready to take about a 35 percent hit because we're moving this federal money from it. Certainly don't want to stand in the way of you guys having vacation pay. I just don't know the dollar amount and everything else or what it should be. But the legality of it, to do that Kevin, what would we do?

KEVIN MONK: Number one, we need the active participation of the committee and then a vote by all managers in the program that that's what they want to do. That's the first two steps. I'm not sure where it goes from there. I would have to research it. But I know that's the first two steps.

MELISSA BAYHAM: And Kevin, just a couple questions. Mr. Gaffney, you sent a request to me? I don't remember receiving that. Did you email it to me?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I might have just sent it to Kevin.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Okay. Cause I haven't seen that to my knowledge. And Kevin, we do need to research this because I've been doing a lot of Randolph Sheppard research and I think you have to change, you have to make these changes in maybe your tag manual. And you may even have to run it by RSA if I'm remembering correctly from my reading.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It's in the BEP, which is the federal law.

KEVIN MONK: So we'll definitely start the research and figure out exactly how to do this to do it the right way.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Kevin, can you send my letter out or tweak it and send it and make your own copy of it and send it out?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: My concern would be putting a dollar amount on it. Everybody's going to vote for vacation for themselves. I don't see that as a tough election to win. But if we say we're doing it for 750 and it's too much money or we should do more.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's why I put in there availability of money each year.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: But you have 750 for the first year.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes.

HERBERT READO: Looking at about 37,000‑dollars.

KEVIN MONK: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And then if we don't have it for the next year, we can go down to 350 or 500 depending on the availability of the money.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: This is Shelly. Steve, you brought up a point that no one's talking about right now which is once we lose all these federal locations, they go in the trust fund, you said something about set aside. You better let everyone know in the letter they go to a vacation then they have to do set aside also.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. I don't agree with that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Let me just clarify what I'm saying. Federal money can only be used for so many things. One of those, you know, managerial service. But one's also vacation. So the money, we've been told that all the money going in the trust fund has to be treated as set aside money whether federal locations or state locations. But vacation pay is under, Frank you said BEP, but that's allowable money to be spent on vacation pay. Do I have that right, Kevin?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. That's one of the possible uses for set aside money is vacation. Health insurance, vacations. Several things.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You don't have to have a set aside program set up to do it. Cause according to RSA this is already set aside money. That's why it was going to pass with federal was one and state was one. All the money in the trust fund has to be spent like it was a set aside. Like they were set aside funds.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Okay.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It's currently set up where you can do that. We set up a mechanism to do it in the future, but not actually sending out a check right away. They can vote on would you like to set up a program where you could possibly receive a vacation paycheck, and everybody will say yes.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Of course they will.

SPEAKER: Exactly.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I would like to get the official back in so if we make a decision, it's there. We already had that part of it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. During the pandemic Alabama did that. They used that as a mechanism to get money to people. Rather than a stipend. Very similar to the stipend. The stipend is considered set aside money as well. But there's no federal match to it. That's the thing. A hundred percent coming out of the trust fund. So Kevin and I are going to work on that. Frank, number five, you had was forgiveness of debits.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. My understanding is that we cannot restock a person. But there's nothing in there that says we cannot forgive the debit. Which we have been doing for a long time. The person had the choice of getting more stock or that much money be removed from his original debit. And I propose that we need to do that. Right now people in New Orleans just reopened and they lost everything they got again. We can't give them any money, but at least they would feel like we did something for them.

KEVIN MONK: I've heard of some states doing that. If you can give me a state in particular, Frank, I'll reach out to them and have some conversations. Because that could be a possibility. Possible way to do it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Terry told me there are some states out there that do it. I can ask him for it.

KEVIN MONK: Actually, I have a call set up with him tomorrow morning. I'll add that to my list.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay.

KEVIN MONK: I had some other stuff to go over with him and I'll add that to the list.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Put vacation in there too. See what he has to say about that. I told Frank it only helps people who plan on paying the money back. We got a lot of people who owe us money who never pay us back. You can forgive someone's debit and they were intending on paying it back, they would consider the value of it. But if someone doesn't intend to pay the debit back, really no big deal. I think from an accounting standpoint. Shirley McCorcal is wanting to come in.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Everybody's supposed to pay their debit back.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Of course they are. Supposed to stop at a stop light and wear a seat belt too. And get vaccinated. Shirley McCorcal, welcome in. Okay. Frank, next item is full evidentiary hearing.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's Herbert.

HERBERT READO: Yeah. That's me. What is the status on these full evidentiary hearings? I've been reaching out and there seems to be no communication for the full evidentiary hearing.

KEVIN MONK: Both your case and Cedric Mitchell's case have been assigned to or given to hearing officers. I know you had had a problem with miscommunication or whatever with yours. Quincey Richard, last time I talked to you, you had called him, and he was in court. He was supposed to be calling you back.

HERBERT READO: Right.

KEVIN MONK: Have you been able to hook up with him?

HERBERT READO: I hooked up with him and he stated he was trying to reach out to LWC and he's not getting a response from LWC.

KEVIN MONK: All right. I do know the attorney has emailed him and for some reason, and it happened to me a couple times, when I emailed him at first some materials, I always have to follow up with a phone call because for some reason email goes into his Spam folder for some crazy reason. And so I'll make sure that the attorney gets that, that word and hopefully follows up the email with a phone call to him. So I found that's what worked for me is every time I emailed him, I would call and either talk to him or leave a voice mail saying hey, I sent you an email. Then he would go in his Spam folder and do it. I don't know if there's a permanent solution if something's into Spam to, you know, make it stop from a certain sender or what not. But that was our issue initially.

HERBERT READO: Well, I would like the committee to look into this full evidentiary hearing. Because it doesn't really, even in the tag manual, it doesn't really specify a specific time to have a full evidentiary hearing. Administrative hearing has some restriction as far as time wise. But the full evidentiary hearing doesn't have any specific time. And that kind of worries me a little bit because it gives the agency a little bit more open-door policy to do what they want to do, I guess. So I believe as a committee we really need to look into that. I think I need to talk to someone from another state. And they actually saying question what was the timeframe and there's no time in that. 30 days, 60 days, 90 days or something. We need to really put some teeth in the full evidentiary hearing.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's something we can work on.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You said BEP, Frank? Is that not in the BEP?

FRANK GAFFNEY: In the BEP the manager is restricted. He's only got 30 days to apply. But there's nothing in there for the state to do it.

KEVIN MONK: Besides that the only timeframe in there is the hearing officer has 15 days from the date of the hearing to get the decision.

HERBERT READO: It shouldn't take two years to have a full evidentiary hearing.

KEVIN MONK: I agree that.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm sorry, y'all. This is Melissa. I just wanted to make a comment on that. If y'all haven't already said it. I'm sorry. I'm multitasking here. But Mr. Herbert, part of the issue was we did not have an appropriate evidentiary hearing officer. And now we have two. And I think we had explained that. It kind of caught us off guard because we were doing it one way and then things changed with the hearing unit at LWC. So they wanted to do it under our contract, but at the same time the only attorney we had as a hearing officer decided to retire. And so we had nobody. So I do agree that is way too long for a hearing process. But now that we do have the two on board that are attorneys, I think we'll be good from this point forward. And I have also talked to Kevin about in the VR program we have established timelines in our appeal process, and we don't have that in this program. And so I talked to Kevin about how we need to establish those to make sure this doesn't happen in the future. But I do understand your frustration.

HERBERT READO: Thanks.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So something like that, would that need to be promulgated? Anytime you change the BEP.

KEVIN MONK: Yes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Or is that something you do in the tag manual?

KEVIN MONK: No.

MELISSA BAYHAM: There's quite a bit that needs to be promulgated anyway. But we can have that discussion to figure out what needs to be done where.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Anything we change in the BEP has to be promulgated, as far as I know.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Next thing we have is the FRRP payments. I think everyone received a check that was due to receive a check. There was one that got turned in late. And then Kevin and Steven Johnson were working on the administrative costs associated with the program. So there should be some money left over for what we call the biggest losers. The ones who were not fully compensated for all their losses. Kevin, do you know anything?

KEVIN MONK: Steven had I had a conversation as late as last week. It looks like the administrative costs came in a little lower than what we anticipated it would. And so he's going to be getting me a number. And once we do that then we'll have a number to divide up among the folks who weren't fully compensated for their losses.

FRANK GAFFNEY: When we get those figures, we'll have a phone conference?

KEVIN MONK: Yes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: A Zoom conference.

KEVIN MONK: Some kind of conference.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We want some more active participation.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That's been a pretty good program. Anytime you give somebody free money, it's always good.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I got one more thing. Kevin, I was talking to you. Where do we stand on the training program and getting some managers?

KEVIN MONK: That's kind of one of the things that Steve and I had a conversation with Lynn last week about that. And we're trying to pull some data. We're trying to get that. That's one of the things I have to talk to Terry about on tomorrow is in training. And so hopefully within the next week or two we'll have a little clearer picture on that. Because I do think that there is going to be a need for some training. We do know that some of the locations that have been affected by the pandemic may never come back to what they were prior to the pandemic. And so you may have some people wanting to move around as well. But, I mean, with the federal locations that we have that are, you know, going be coming out with a list of federal locations we're trying to talk about maybe adding to the program. Yeah, I do think there's a need for training and we are working on that. We'll have a better idea soon.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Kevin, this is Frank. Has anybody contacted the blind counselors to let them know we're looking?

KEVIN MONK: Yes. I did send out an email and let them know. And I need to follow up with each and every one of them with a personal phone call. We have a couple new, brand-new counselors out there that I haven't even had a chance to speak to yet. And so and I think Shreveport is one of them, Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. LAB, I'm waiting for some equipment because LAB doesn't even know who the counselor is.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: What are you getting from LAB?

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's where they order all their stuff from. And they ordered some stuff and then further evaluation we got some more stuff, not that big of stuff, but more stuff. But the manager, the counselor we had left. She got promoted and still waiting. So that's the only person that can sign off on it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Melissa can sign off on it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So maybe I'll call you back after we get off and get some more information and more details.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That is an LRS deal. We're on this together. But it's a different source of money.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I think you're speaking of the Shreveport region, correct?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yep.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. My poor Shreveport region. They're down to six counselors. So we're trying to hire, they don't even have a supervisor right now, so I apologize. When I say we're understaffed in Shreveport it's my worst region right now. So things are moving way slower than I would like it to be. So we'll get that worked out for you.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I appreciate it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. Cool. Okay. We got location updates here. And that's kind of what I want to talk about as far as the bids and what's going on there. Erick put on a big dog and pony show at the I10 Slidell Welcome Center a couple weeks ago. Bids were due last Wednesday. We had five people apply for the location. Still kind of vetting those applications. My hope was to have done a selection today, but it's probably going to be the next couple of days. A new location for that. As y'all know Terry passed away. So we're working with, Erick's been doing a great job working with (inaudible) and the rest of the people at RSVL maintaining the machines. I would like to sooner than later get another manager to take control of those machines.

Now LWC, we had put that out to bid and nobody bid on it. So right now Tony had been assigned the Baton Rouge Post Office, the processing plant. So he's been covering this on the back end. But I think it's time to bid again so I'm going to look at doing that. That would be a good location particularly for a particular individual I'm thinking about. That location has an opportunity before the pandemic, again, before the hurricane, but during the pandemic. Still doing about 500 bucks a day, right, Kevin?

KEVIN MONK: During the middle of the pandemic it was down in the threes. And before the pandemic and even when things started to, you know, come back it was in the 500 a day range. That's five to six was, you know, like the best days.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So a really good location that you can do cooking, you know, you can get by with one employee or no employees if you do it yourself. It's a good opportunity. Now, the Lasalle Cafeteria, we had done a selection. We had completed a selection for that. But OSB has been holding off on opening that location. Occupancy of the building was way down. Michelle talked to OSB last week and he was going to give us a readout of people in each particular building. If you look at the covid numbers they have been down trending. Hospitalizations, everything else has definitely gone down. I don't know. Hopefully that mean more people are going back to work in these buildings. But Lasalle has not been open because they don't want us to open it. That means Mike who was awarded that location is still doing Poydras. That's kind of status quo at this point.

But there's also another building, Baton Rouge (inaudible), where Hasan was. They shut down the cafeteria there because they needed the space to give the governor another office in the building, according to OSB. But we still have the vending machines there. That's what Hasan was doing. Now Hasan got Delgado and he's backfilling those. But that's a location I think we need to put out to bid as well. Next week I'll put out the LWC list. And then also the Shreveport state office building up there. But that building's not really hitting on a whole lot. But there's some machines over there that Emma's servicing right now. Frank, isn't that correct?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Emma's taking care of one snack, one Coke down in the basement to keep it up to date.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. We have a snack bar there that was shutdown. But again, the building population in Shreveport state office building is kind of low. It is picking up. But right now Iberville and LWC are, I think, the ones that are probably the most pressing. We've done a bid for the department of corrections location. And Herbert showed up and another manager showed. But Herbert bid on it as a satellite. So as it stands now Herbert serves in that location. Herb, you want to give us a quick update what's going on over there.

HERBERT READO: Yeah. We have cleaned everything up and tentative we are scheduled to kind of do a grand opening on Friday and to open up on Monday. With great help from the administrative, the staff and they allowed us to use some of the inmate labor to kind of come in and pressure wash some of the area. So that helped out a whole lot. I've got the food order just about ready and waiting on the agency approval. Once that get in then I should have the food in by Wednesday and we should be ready to roll.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sounds good.

HERBERT READO: Everybody seems to be kind of excited about it. It's a new facility. It's been remodeled so it's in real good shape.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yeah. It looks really nice in there compared to what it did before.

HERBERT READO: Yeah. Real nice in there. Got to keep it clean like that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Good for you. Well, fantastic. That's pretty much what I have on new business, Frank. Anything else we missed?

FRANK GAFFNEY: We got anymore update on the New Orleans people? New Orleans area.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: As far as like, Erick, Alex is open, but what's he doing, the vending machines?

ERICK CHUPINA: Alex is just doing the vending machines. He's not open. They don't start jury trials until next week. Monday of next week, I think.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Mica, what's going on with Delgado?

MICA SMITH: Today I went to Delgado City Park and Hasan opened up today. And then I went over to Sidney Collier. We go back to City Park, City Park was really slow. So there's not very many people on campus at all. Although I did see one class going on. I tried to walk around the whole campus. I went over to Sidney Collier and not very many people at all. Redell is open, but I went there, by the time I went there it was about 10:00 and he had one customer and had been open since 7:30 or 8. So it's not looking good there. And I went over to the west bank Delgado campus, and it looked like there was less cars in the parking lot than before the hurricane. I don't know if it was just the first day of in person classes or if this is the new kind of normal at Delgado.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I have a buddy of mine that works there. Employees have been back on campus for a couple weeks. Today was the first day for students. Hopefully, just the morning the Saints lost on Monday, and they'll be back tomorrow. It's not looking good. There's nobody, with the exception of Pinky, who's really kicking it down here right now. Mike, you know, those locations are doing well.

ERICK CHUPINA: Bobby's doing okay.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yeah. Bobby's doing good out there at NASA. Like Anderson Lee, I talked to him. He just opened for lunch. He opened for breakfast and he's still struggling with that. He's got enough to keep him open for lunch. But we have a lot of these obligations people want us to be open, but it's hard to stay in business. That's about it for that.

HERBERT READO: Mr. Steve, did you say anything about the bus stop?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. The bus stop, last update was about a month ago. So hopefully it's changed. So we were waiting on them, she had put a bid out‑‑ supposably everything was done on the inside. The electricity, the plumbing. They had a bid out to replace the glass around the snack bar which includes two sliding glass doors. She put the bid out, supposably had a bidder and that was supposed to be underway this month. I will definitely find out. Pretty good contact with her and she has no problem reaching out to us. That's another location that even in the hay day still challenged. I don't know how many people are riding the bus nowadays. We definitely need to get it going. We were waiting on them to finish it up with that glass. It's going to be nice when it gets there. We have all new equipment for it. We have some new equipment and some other equipment. But that's all in the warehouse ready to go in there when they give us the go ahead. Once they tell us it's ready to go, we can get it in there in just a matter of days. I kind of hate to put it out for bid at this point because we don't know when it's going to open. But I'll find out more details.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Steve, do you have an update on Chabert?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sunny is open with the vending machines. He's still doing the vending machines. The building suffered pretty good damage. Blew some vents off the roof. And also two central AC units behind the building that were on cement pads, and both got blown off the pads. I forgot the name of that AC company is, Mica, that we always use. But they went out and gave us a quote 2,700‑dollars to repair everything. We gave them the go ahead on that. I think they're ordering parts. Sunny thinks he can probably open there in the next week or so. But the hospital, as of last week, was not totally open. They have some clinics that are open there. Some doctors still there. But as far as hospital patients, they're supposed to open that back up the next week or two. They're not, by any stretch of the imagination, putting pressure on us to open back up again. But he is servicing the vending machines. Sunny had it bad. His house got a lot of damage as well. He's struggling on a personal level as well as a professional level over there because of the damage from the hurricane.

As far as new business, do y'all want to take a break for a few minutes? We got old business, which is basically what Kevin talked about with the letter from Barksdale Air Force Base and University Medical Center.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We went through old business.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So subcommittees. We can hit on that. Pinky, you still with us? The budget committee is number one. That's Pinky Harris. Any updates, comments, criticisms? Pinky, are you with us? I think she dropped out. All right. Emma's got constitution, bylaws. Earl, inventory. Nothing to talk about. So location mergers. Like I said, we talked about Shelly with these new third parties. We can discuss location mergers at that point in time. Roadsides, Frank Gaffney.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. Everything's open. Nobody's, the only one taking money is Sam. But he's slowed down because they're working on the entrance into one side of his location. So he's not getting anything from the east bound side unless you go through a bunch of turnarounds. But he's hanging in.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Don was saying he was doing okay but slowing down over there. Toomey welcome center.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They're still working on his entrance too. And from what he told me they don't even have the sign up for the vending. Which is supposed to be on the interstate.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Like a highway sign?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. I'll make a note of that right now. Yeah. Cause they got one for you. What does it say, like vending next location, something like that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. I'll tell you, I don't know what DOTD's doing, but like at my rest area they got two handicap bathrooms. One's been closed for two years, and the other's been closed for six months and all it needs is a new lock, doorknob. And then they work the air condition by fooling around with it, have the cleanup people push the reset button on the air conditioning every so often. New they blew it up and it don't work at all.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That affects you as well?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Lost all my candy.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I'll send them an email and find out what's going on. I know it's been out. Been out for like a week.

FRANK GAFFNEY: For about three weeks now. But there's no plan to fix it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Cause it doesn't affect the inside of the welcome center. Only affects you.

FRANK GAFFNEY: The inside is tourism. They're on their own.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. I guarantee you their AC's working.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Oh, yeah. There's is working.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I bet.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Upward mobility training, Shelly.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Have to go on the opinionator and complain.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Do that.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: As far as upward mobility, right now we really don't have anything scheduled. There's a lot of upward mobility been going on with Blast and with the merchant. We sent it out to people. I know I did. I sent it to basically everyone I had a contact for.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yeah. Me too. And RSMAs did as well. I think we had a pretty good turnout.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. It wasn't bad. It was 300 plus every day.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. I had to call Sunny tell him to turn his camera off. He didn't know his camera was on.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Who's that?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sunny Crochet. He was in his truck. His cell phone. Be careful where he's pointing that camera. I'll leave it at that.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. Let's go with district concerns. Candice, any concerns for your district?

CANDICE LINVILLE: No. Not really. I mean, Redell's a little, you know, down in the dumps about his place getting broke into. And then sales and stuff that Mica was just talking about, nobody's there. But that's all I've heard of.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think Pinky dropped off. I know everybody's looking for the stipend. Herb, anything in district three we need to know about?

HERBERT READO: No. I don't know anything. I don't know if Joe in my area or not. But he did reach out to me trying to find his check. But I'm glad to see they've been mailed out.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. His check's going to be hand delivered because of his change of address. I don't think it's ready yet, but it should be ready by the end of the week.

KEVIN MONK: Actually, Steve, you just got an email update about the checks.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I did?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. It just popped up.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Kevin's right. I'm going to read you this email I just got. Says just wanted to update you on stipends for the 761s we discussed this morning. All have been entered and approved payment and checks will be sent directly to me tomorrow at approximately 2 p.m. Laura Brown, Michael Ducet and Hasan had to have in house checks issued because they are not signed up in LaGov. These checks should be issued today, hopefully. And then goes to Benny for a signature. I'll notify you once I receive and verify the address. There are two 761s that are awaiting Kevin's approval. Not sure which one that is. That check will be entered on Thursday. (Inaudible) Zora's check is in house waiting to be signed. So that should be available for him tomorrow, hopefully. So heads up Kevin. I didn't even see that. So Michelle will get in touch with Zora about that. She's going to pick it up and hand deliver that. Coming to the time where we pick a date for our next meeting. We need to do it by end of the year, right, Frank. Twenty‑fourth is Christmas Eve. December 17th. I don't know that we'll be ready to have in person meetings by that time.

FRANK GAFFNEY: 17th should be good unless there's an objection.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: How does that sound, everyone? Friday the 17th at 2:00. A Zoom meeting. Anybody got an issue with that date?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That's okay with me.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Do we have to vote on that or just say.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. We'll go with that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. So the next meeting for the executive committee of blind vendors will be on December 17th. It's a Friday. It's going to be a Zoom meeting at 2:00 in the afternoon. I'll send out a Zoom invitation to everyone. And Lynsey, if you can make it, we would like for you to come back as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: One more question for Kevin. Kevin, is it possible to get the RSMAs to get us a list of all the various email addresses that they can get so I can get a list of emails for everybody?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yes. We can certainly do that. Right, Kevin?

KEVIN MONK: I mean, I don't guess that's private information. We can definitely ask them if they're okay with us giving out their email address. And if they're fine with it, we can get it to you.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Most of the other committee chairmen’s have it and they send information out to their people, but we don't.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Well, we don't do it that way. What we like to do is send it to the RSMAs and the RSMAs send them emails. Like Blast, three or four times we try to get Blast. Like I say, we can send it to them and if they use it and they open it. We can't make them go in this particular. Definitely use email a lot. I know Mica does for sure.

KEVIN MONK: Definitely ask them and try to get a list of email addresses.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. Appreciate it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. That's brings us to the end of the agenda, Frank. Do you want to make a motion to end the EC meeting?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I move that we close this meeting down.

HERBERT READO: Second it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor.

{collective aye}

FRANK GAFFNEY: Opposed? Hearing none, meeting adjourned.

 Randolph Sheppard Trust Fund Meeting

 October 4th, 2021

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. Do y'all want to take like a five-minute break and then we'll do the trust fund?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Let's just go ahead and finish it if y'all okay with it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. So the trust fund agenda. Frank, you want to call the meeting to order.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Call trust fund meeting to order, please. Roll call. We might not have enough now.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Shelly LEJEUNE, Baton Rouge.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Candice Linville, New Orleans.

HERBERT READO: Herbert Reado, Baton Rouge.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I think that's it. That's it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You only have four people on the meeting.

KEVIN MONK: We can still definitely give an update and all that. We might not be able to vote on anything.

HERBERT READO: Yeah. No motion or nothing.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We can't vote on the minutes from the last meeting. But as of today the balance of the trust fund is 814,543.96. That's what's in the account. A lot of these, I don't know how much of that reflects the stipends. I'm thinking probably not a whole lot. That number is going to be decreased for sure. What I also have is the detailed expense report. We really haven't been doing a lot of purchasing. We haven't been doing a lot of repairing either. Some repairs. If you want, I can send you guys a copy of this report and you can scrutinize it.

HERBERT READO: Yeah. I would like to have a copy of it.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. You can send me one too.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. I'll send it to all EC members.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Especially the budget. Got to keep an eye on that professional services.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. Also in here salary, retirement, Medicare tax, group insurance, instate travel, operating expenses, acquisition, major repairs. Didn't really have a whole lot except for paying Mica's big salary. I'll send that to everyone. Like I said, right now the trust fund is 814. Probably when it's all shaken out probably be down to seven. Herb, what I'll do is Erick and I will work together the next couple of days and we'll try to schedule something later this week or first thing next week. I keep forgetting today's Monday.

HERBERT READO: That will be good.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Try to get third party. Is it good for you after lurch, like 2:00?

HERBERT READO: Yeah. After lurch would be good.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Same for you, Shelly?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. That's fine with me. And look, if y'all are able to get the emails, at least phone numbers if they have cell phones or whatever, yeah, you can send me a copy. Because what you can't do by email you can actually send it by text message also. So whenever that meeting?

HERBERT READO: I don't think we really need to.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Really don't haven't anything to vote on right now.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Just the minutes from last meeting.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Vote on both of them next time.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. What I'll do is I'll send everybody a copy of these reports here to take a look at those. If you have a question, we can always do another Zoom meeting. No big deal. We have an account. All right. Well, I guess that brings the end. Well, not enough people to vote. That's going to be it for the blind vendors trust fund meeting.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Do I hear a motion?

HERBERT READO: I make a motion to adjourn.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I second it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Scheduled immediately following our next EC meeting on December 17th. If we don't have a special meeting between now and then. All right, guys. I enjoyed it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Thank y'all. See y'all next time.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Have a good evening.